

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this amendment, Claims 1-54 were pending. In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 8-22, 27-29, 31-37, 42-47 and 49-53 were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious over United States Patent No. 6,554,819 (Reich) alone or in combination with one or more secondary references. Claims 4, 5, 7, 23-26, 30, 38-41, 48 and 54 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, Applicant has placed the application in condition for allowance on the basis of the allowability of dependent Claims 4, 5, 7, 23-26, 30, 38-41, 48 and 54. Specifically, the application has been amended as follows:

- While Applicants believe the specification at line 14 on page 12 was correct, they have amended that paragraph to make the meaning more clear, i.e., that inflation can be implemented during the period from 15 minutes before to 3 seconds after contrast injection.
- Claims 1, 2, 4, 23, 37-38, 44, 45, 48 and 54 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 17, 24, 36, 39, 46
- Language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 4 has been amended into independent Claim 3, thereby placing Claims 3 and 5-16 in condition for allowance.
- Language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 23 has been amended into independent Claim 17, thereby placing Claims 17-22 and 24-35 in condition for allowance.
- Language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 23 has been amended into independent Claim 17, thereby placing Claims 17-22 and 24-35 in condition for allowance.
- Language that substantially recites the limitations of allowed dependent Claim 38 and intervening Claim 37 have been amended into independent Claim 36, thereby placing Claims 36 and 39-43 in condition for allowance.

• Language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 48 has been amended into independent Claim 46, thereby placing Claims 46-47 and 49-50 in condition for allowance.

• Language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 54 has been amended into independent Claim 51, thereby placing Claims 51-53 in condition for allowance.

• New independent Claim 55 substantially contains the subject matter of original independent Claim 3 in combination with language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 7. Dependent Claims 56-66 further define or further limit the subject matter of independent Claim 55. Thus, Claims 55-66 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

• New independent Claim 67 substantially contains the subject matter of original independent Claim 17 in combination with language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 25. Dependent Claims 68-84 further define or further limit the subject matter of independent Claim 67. Thus, Claims 67-84 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

• New independent Claim 85 substantially contains the subject matter of original independent Claim 17 in combination with language that substantially recites the limitation of allowed dependent Claim 30. Dependent Claims 86-95 further define or further limit the subject matter of independent Claim 85. Thus, Claims 85-95 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The foregoing amendments have been made solely for the purpose of expeditiously bringing a first patent to issuance on this application. Entry of this amendment does not constitute any admission or agreement that the grounds for rejection stated in the Office Action are correct or sustainable. Additionally, entry of this amendment does not constitute any admission or agreement that Reich or any other cited reference legally constitutes prior art, or that such reference(s) can not be antedated in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.131.

Appl. No. 10/057,202
Amdt. dated March 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2003

PATENT

On the basis of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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